

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Three I-80 Traffic Stops Result in Separate Federal Drug Indictments**

Rock Island, IL - Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced drug indictments today stemming from three different traffic stops by the Illinois State Police on Interstate 80 in Henry County, Illinois. Each of the indictments was returned this afternoon by a federal grand jury sitting in Peoria.

In the first case, Michael Deon Reese, of Royal Oaks, Michigan, was charged with the conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute marijuana. The indictment also contains a criminal forfeiture allegation seeking the forfeiture of approximately \$368,640 seized from Reese's vehicle. The criminal complaint previously filed in the case alleges that on February 9, 2006, a vehicle being driven by Reese was stopped for a traffic offense on Interstate 80 in Henry County. The complaint further alleges that when Reese's vehicle was searched, \$368,640 in U.S. Currency was discovered which had been heat-sealed and located in several packages and containers throughout the vehicle.

In a separate indictment, Charles Ray McSwain, Winona McSwain and Justin Delvis Morgan were each charged with the conspiracy to possess and distribute marijuana, and the possession with intent to distribute marijuana. According to court records, Winona McSwain and Justin Morgan reside in Texas, and Charles Ray McSwain resides in Mexico. As alleged in a criminal complaint previously filed in the case, they were stopped in a vehicle for a traffic offense on Interstate 80 in Henry County on January 24, 2006. The criminal complaint further alleges that the Illinois State Police subsequently discovered approximately 755 pounds of marijuana in their vehicle.

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A third indictment charges Robert Louis Moorman, a resident of Utah, with the conspiracy to possess and distribute marijuana, and the possession with intent to distribute marijuana. As alleged in the complaint previously filed in the case, Moorman was stopped on Interstate 80 in Henry County on February 1, 2006. According to the criminal complaint, approximately 743 pounds of marijuana was discovered in Moorman's vehicle.

The charges in these three cases are the result of investigations by the Illinois State Police and United States Drug Enforcement Administration. The case involving Michael Deon Reese is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John K. Mehochko of the Rock Island Branch of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois. The two other cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew J. Cannon, also of the Rock Island Branch.

If found guilty, each of the defendants faces a prison sentence of at least five years, and up to 40 years, and a fine of up to \$2,000,000, for each count with which he or she is charged.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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